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(54) Camera with combination four-way directional and mode control interface

(57) An electronic camera for capturing, viewing and manipulating electronic image data includes a processor for operating the camera in a plurality of modes, a display device for generating image components including one or more captured images derived from the electronic image data and a set of graphical elements, and a single controller that intuitively allows the user to cycle through the available displayed choices and options

with a minimum of hassle. The controller includes a control element separated into four directional components arranged around a central axis and operative with the display device for navigating among the image components and a mode dial coaxial with the control element for selecting one of the modes.

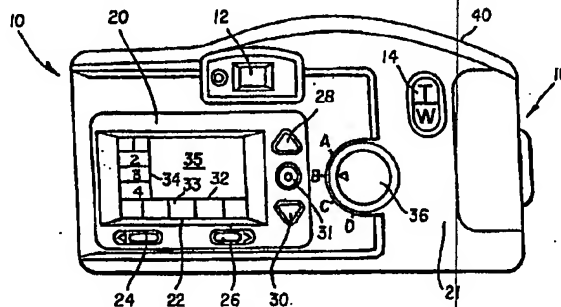


FIG. 1

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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

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EP 99 20 0766

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6)
P,A	WO 98 12868 A (FLASHPOINT TECHNOLOGY INC) 26 March 1998 (1998-03-26) * abstract * * column 1, line 64 - column 2, line 14 * * column 5, line 1 - line 33 * * figures 4,5 *	1-10	H04N1/21 H04N101/00
A	US 5 223 888 A (FUKAHORI HIDEHIKO) 29 June 1993 (1993-06-29) * abstract * * column 3, line 35 - line 45 *	1-10	
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 1 December 2000	Examiner Hubeau, R
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	

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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82

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